Rewilding Knepp
KNEPP ESTATE
1,400 ha
DIG FOR VICTORY: 1941, when these pictures were taken, Knepp’s land had mostly reverted to scrub
"Cartoon" spectrum of protected areas scaled by size and by qualitative indication of management intensity

Range of ‘typical’ UK nature reserves SSSIs, Wildlife Trusts, RSPB, NNRs, Land within NIAs managed for Conservation etc.
Soil has been destroyed
Now dirt requiring chemicals
60 years of harvests left globally

Hedges cut to nearly nothing
little use for nature

Where is the space for nature in this landscape?

Roads fragmenting nature
Animals routinely wormed,
keling invertebrates and
soil biota

Towns not linked to nature
Intensively farmed land right
up to towns & villages

Crop monocultures –
even pasture might
have only 2 or 3 species
of grass, and no
broadleaves

Single species plantations
Small, isolated and fragmented

Canalised rivers
carrying nitrates and pesticides
the UK is ranked 29th lowest out of 218 countries using the ‘biodiversity intactness index’: we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world

- we lost 75,000 miles of hedgerows between WW2 and the 1990s
- we’ve lost 97% of our wildflower meadows since WW2
- we lost 90% of wetlands, in England alone, since the Industrial Revolution
- we’ve lost 80% of Britain’s lowland heathland since 1800 – ¼ of that acreage in the last 50 years
- compared to 2.75million ha in France, England has only 94,400 ha (364 square miles) conserved for nature (even Estonia manages over 258,000 ha)
- there were 40 million more birds in our skies in the UK in 1966
- moths have declined 88%, ground beetles 72% and butterflies 76% since 1970
- one plant species goes extinct every other year in 16 counties in the UK
- more than half our species declined in numbers between 2002-2013
- we are in imminent danger of losing 10-15% of our species overall
Corridors
Green bridges
Cutting hedges in longer rotations
Allow them to billow out
Greater widths
3 nightingale territories in this 170 meter hedge
Farming for nature – nectar margins, sacrificial crops, bare earth strips for bird dusting, reservoirs for insects that are beneficial to crop management....
“...yields at the field scale were maintained—and, indeed, enhanced for some crops—despite the loss of cropland for habitat creation.”
At Peppering other Red Listed birds have also recovered dramatically.
Autumn counts 2014

Peppering over 2,000 Partridges
Regenerative farming, Conservation Farming....
Wood pasture – one of the most diverse habitats there is
Beavers and braided rivers – re-meandering rivers, freeing up river systems, retaining water on floodplains – soil, trees and grassland acting like a sponge
Floodplain water meadows and wildflower hay meadows
Multi-species plantations
PuRpoSe
(PRortct Oak Ecosystems)

In the UK, Quercus robur and Q. petraea are under threat from new diseases including Acute Oak Decline (AOD)

1/5 of oaks could be dead by 2050
OUR GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND
Tony Davis has been ringing birds for 30 years – over a couple of weeks in Sept 2018 he ringed more lesser whitethroats (*Sylvia curruca*) and black caps (*Sylvia atricapilla*) in two fields on Knepp than he has ringed in his entire career.
Knepp’s SOIL compared to arable control

Total soil carbon – more than double
Organic carbon – more than double
Soil organic matter – more than double
Microbial biomass – more than double
Fungal biomarkers – more than triple
Fungal/bacterial ratio – recovered

Pop-up Knepps?
Rewilding Knepp turnover 2019 - a **partial budget** on the Home Farm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Revenue</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>£191 / ha Environmental Stewardship</td>
<td>£220k</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>£205 / ha Basic Payment</td>
<td>£202k</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>123,000 sq ft Office, Workshop Warehouse</td>
<td>£620k</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 houses released from Ag</td>
<td>£120k</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75 tonnes LW organic free range Pasture fed</td>
<td>£120k</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourism Camping and glamping</td>
<td>£450k</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WILDING
The Story of Knepp
By Isabella Tree

What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet;
Long live the weeds and the wilderness yet.

Gerard Manley Hopkins, ‘Inversnaid’, 1881